



Annual Review 2023

OUR PRINCIPLES

WE USE THESE TO HELP US DEVELOP FUNDING BIDS, CARRY OUT EVALUATION AND SUPPORT STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

**A synthesis of the '5 Ways to Well Being'
and the '12 Permaculture Principles'**

CONNECT

We value and nurture connections with people, organisations and projects. We appreciate the unique qualities that come from differences and the resilience that comes from diversity. We actively work with the marginal - both people and places on the edges - harnessing creativity and inspiration.

BE ACTIVE

We actively link people, projects and places, trying to improve how different elements connect. We encourage people and organisations to support themselves and each other to develop physical and mental resilience. We make sure the action we take is effective, relevant and sustainable, working together on long term goals and solutions to real life problems.

TAKE NOTICE

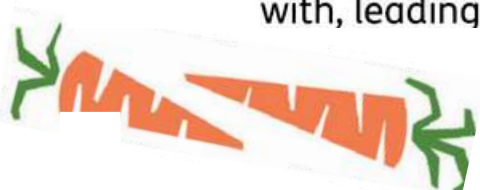
We take notice of people's feelings, including our own, helping us to work with empathy and compassion. We pay attention to our impact, ensuring that we use our resources wisely - harnessing the abundance of the natural world and limiting our negative impact on it. We observe and reflect on patterns we see in nature and society to help us make decisions on how we behave.

KEEP LEARNING

We are always open to feedback, helping us improve as an organisation, and as individuals. We seek out better ways of working, and adapt to change creatively. We reflect on how our interventions affect people and situations.

GIVE

We share surpluses, giving to people and organisations when we can. We reward people for their efforts and make sure gratitude is regular and sincere. We ensure that projects are meaningful to the people and places we work with, leading to yields that are rewarding and relevant.



REFLECTION ON THE YEAR

Another fantastic year for the Hyde Park Source community. We've welcomed a record number of people into our projects and groups this year, with our Volunteers & Staff Team working together to make a difference to the people and places of Leeds.

A few years ago we set out intention to not grow as an organisation, as we want to remain a grassroots community organisation. In spite of this intention we have more than doubled in staff and turnover! We hope that this means the growth we have had is for the right reasons - there is a need and we are the best people to respond to it.



Another intention we set was to help grow the network in Leeds. This, we have certainly achieved, to the point where we now have a stream of work that will sit alongside our Community Gardening, Outdoor Education and Design & Build work.

We are calling this 'Movement Building' - as we feel that we are part of a movement of people, communities and organisations that are working towards making a better world where people & the planet can live in fairer more balanced world.

We want to keep connecting our projects, and the people we work with, into the bigger picture - so they feel part of something. Together we can keep making a real difference to the lives of people and the places they live.

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

335
CHILDREN

5
EDUCATION
PROJECTS

8
398
ONE OFF
VOLUNTEERS

12
COMMUNITY
PROJECTS &
GROUPS

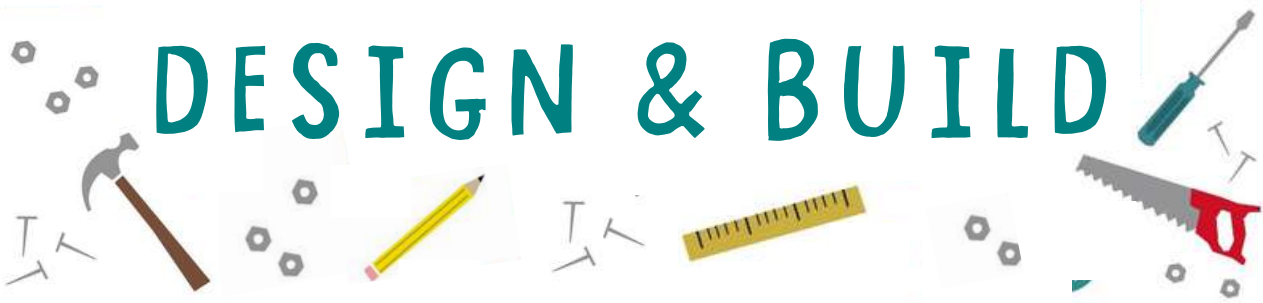
193
REGULAR
VOLUNTEERS

27
DESIGN &
BUILD
PROJECTS

520
SESSIONS

1248
HOURS

DESIGN & BUILD



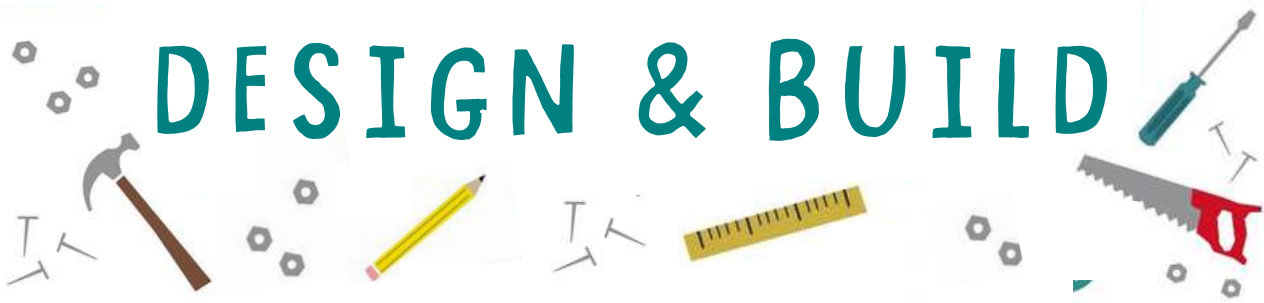
This year has been chaos and fun with the Design & Build crew! With the challenges of previous years we learnt many lessons which have helped us develop into a hugely successful team.

We love it when clients come to us with exciting ideas that we can work with to create new standard designs. This year we have created designs for an outdoor classroom and a range of outdoor musical instruments - which we will be adding to our ever growing catalogue (see website for details).



We have had amazing successes with the projects we have delivered - creating beautiful spaces in some of the most built up areas of Leeds.

DESIGN & BUILD



It's been a massive help to have the brilliant Trillz join our team this year as part of the 'New to Nature' apprentice scheme. They've done a fantastic job helping us to develop our 'Building Skills' Volunteer program. We hope to be able to make them a permanent part of our team in 2024.



We are looking forward to welcoming new Volunteers into the project, If you are interested in developing your woodwork skills, meeting new people and giving back to the local community, please contact: volunteer@hydeparksource.org



OUTDOOR EDUCATION



HPS was commissioned by Leeds 2023 year of culture to deliver ‘Under Our Feet’, an outdoor education programme for schools across Leeds.

Since January we have:

- Supported staff to facilitate classes exploring the schools’ grounds and surrounding areas in creative ways, developing a number of these areas with our Design & Build team. The content of these classes was inspired by the work of ‘Invisible Flock’.
- Hosted 6 primary schools in Leeds city centre, where they attended “This Is A Forest” exhibition, “Imagine Leeds: Climate Action Hub” and “Making a stand” installation.
- Run practical workshops, making terrariums at Imagine Leeds: The Climate Action Hub. The classes left with a deeper understanding of how land in Leeds is used, how art can be used to communicate and how we are connected to many people and systems within a city.



This project has helped us to connect and build new relationships with a number of schools across the city.



HEALTHY HOLIDAYS



Healthy holidays supports families tackling food poverty, inactivity and isolation during the school holidays. We run this project at 2 sites, Cross Green and Rosebank. This year we have provided over 2750 meals. This includes hot meals that have been prepared and cooked with the help of our HH children on site either in a kitchen, rocket stove or on a fire; along with weekly food parcels which have been distributed to families that have signed up to HH.



Creativity knows no bounds! We've engaged children in a wide array of activities: crafting terrarium jars, building a compost loo, gardening and harvesting fresh produce from our allotment, cooking sessions, foraging blackberries for smoothies on our fantastic new smoothie bike, and transforming old toys into exciting new creations, bringing eco-friendly creativity to the table. Fires and dens, tennis matches, and lively dances with Dazl have added a dose of fun to our days!



HEALTHY HOLIDAYS

We took 4 trips to Lineharm farm where we improved our indoor climbing skills, interacted with animals, and honed our bushcraft skills. We worked in pairs to navigate tunnels, rope bridges, nets and climbing frames whilst blindfolded! These visits to the farm have proven to be a real success with building confidence and encouraging mindfulness.



None of this would have been possible without the incredible support of our partners. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Seasonwell, REthink Food, Woodcraft Folk, Dazl, Artlink, All Hallows, and the dedicated staff at Lineharm Farm. A special acknowledgment goes to Leeds Community Foundation for their invaluable funding, making this marvellous project a reality.



Overall, the Healthy Holidays project has demonstrated its commitment to holistic community development by addressing not only the immediate needs of food support but also promoting physical activities, creativity, and partnerships with local organizations. The positive impact on confidence-building and mindfulness is particularly noteworthy.



COMMUNITY GARDENING



For all our Community Gardening groups 2023 has been an abundant and colourful year with a lively calendar of fun events, and lots of summer rain to help our veggies grow a lot better than the previous year!!

Our Outdoors Active and Well Groups:



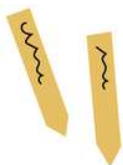
At **The Lost Plot**, we welcomed three new core members—two non-native English speakers—which proved an enriching challenge for communication among Volunteers. Notably, this year also saw the introduction of two bee hives on the plot, accompanied by insightful learning sessions led by beekeeper Alan.

Armley Mills have been busy with dye experiments and maintaining the garden to its usual high standards. Noteworthy progress was made in creating exhibits for the museum's dye garden exhibition, featuring unique handwoven dyed yarn by Volunteer Elaine. Additionally, the group created a bog garden and advanced efforts on a new rockery area, promising a fantastic outcome upon completion.





COMMUNITY GARDENING



Pennington Street group in the heart of Woodhouse have tended their beautiful open public space with particular focus on tending fruit tree and berry species, plus have built fab new chunky compost bays

Clarence House garden group designed and fitted their very own bespoke raised bed and forest garden design in spring with our wonderful Design & Build team.. The result being a lot more tasty crops to eat and a much more accessible productive green space for all.



Our Live Well Leeds groups:



Kirkstall Abbey and **St Mary's Rooftop Garden** in Chapeltown have again focussed on extending their large perennial flower and wildflower areas with more pollinator friendly species added to create big swathes of natural colour and form. Plus another fun July bumblebee count where 9 different species were counted!





COMMUNITY GARDENING



Royal Park Action Research Project brought together students, passers-by, local people and Volunteers to work in this historic site. Friends of Royal Park have now been set up to run monthly sessions and develop future community led plans.



We've had our usual mix of top events for our Volunteers:

A brilliant spring bluebell walk to Riffa Wood, the legendary HPS Ridgefest in July, Apple Juicing fun on the Rosebank in September, Spoken Word Poetry event at Bedford Fields, and finally we teamed up with RHS Communities in autumn for a food share harvesting feast on our very own rooftop garden at St Mary's Court with soup, frittata and homemade cakes galore - all cooked from fresh grown produce and helping to connect our green communities across Leeds!

MOVEMENT BUILDING

In 2020 HPS were appointed at the 'Nature Transition Partner' for Climate Action Leeds - an ambitious 5 year lottery funded program which aims to move towards a zero carbon, nature friendly, socially just Leeds by the 2030's.



This has enabled us to have some dedicated time for strategic work, which contributes to different networks and movements in Leeds. This year we have been part of:

Leeds Green Activity Provider (LGAP) A network which aims to connect organisations in Leeds that deliver nature-based activities to improve health and well-being.

University of Leeds - Research Project - "Developing a pathway towards urban co-production of disused land in Leeds" Working as a paid research partner on this hoping to develop policy around access to land for community use.

Leeds Beckett University - Research Bid for to work together to develop and test a theory of change and common evaluation framework for health and wellbeing impacts of green volunteering activities for people referred from the NHS for mental or physical health concerns.

Community Research Network - Representing the LGAP network on the Core working group for next phase of this project

FINANCE & FUTURE PLANS



2023 has been a buoyant year for HPS, with the overall financial forecast looking very good. The previous year was a very challenging period for many organisations in a post pandemic world, in which we suffered alongside many others, saw us finish with a small loss in our overall Net Income of -£6k, and so reduced our overall reserves by this much.

With renewed vigour from all our teams, a new costing model for our Design & Build work, and several new projects coming in, we are looking at a 2023 forecast surplus of £11.5k, enabling us to continue to deliver so many worthwhile projects, and start the New Year in a strong position.



We've been in a relatively secure position for the past few years, having 5 year funding in place for our main Community Garden projects: Outdoors Active & Well and Live Well Leeds. These run until June 2024 and 2025 respectively so we are focused on securing funding to continue these projects into the future.

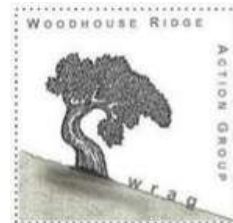
THANK YOU!

The end of this year sees some changes for HPS. Al Langstaff is moving on, with exciting plans to live in Europe, after nearly 5 years Volunteering and then working with HPS - she will be greatly missed!

We would also like to place on record our gratitude to Chris Sharp - who after 5 years on our Management Committee, 4 as Chair, is stepping down. Always a wonderful advocate for HPS. And to Rosie Redfern who has done a fantastic job providing cover for the finance coordinator role for the past year!

As you can see we are a big fan of partnership working! Without all our partners and funders our projects wouldn't be possible!

THANK YOU!



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



We aim to improve health and well-being through improving the environment. We are committed to increasing the potential of individuals and communities, promoting equality of education and training.

We work with local communities to improve their surroundings, designing and creating attractive, exciting and useful places for people to live, work and play.

A massive thank you to all the people (especially the volunteers) involved in designing, building, growing and sharing

-  /hpsourceleeds
-  0113 245 8863
-  @hydeparksource
-  www.hydeparksource.org
-  info@hydeparksource.org

- Community Benefit Society FCA No. 28755R